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THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1911.

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From discussions in Congress it appears that conservation, like the tariff, "is a local issue."

An Ohio editor better expresses it when he says that now is the time for all good parties to come to the aid of the Ultimate Consumer.

That Congressional investigation of the shoe trust, as perhaps you were about to observe, should lead to a disclosure of the facts from the ground up.

They are getting things reversed in the North. Last week during an ice famine it required a physician's prescription to get ice in Springfield, Ohio. We have known it to take a physician's recommendation to get the rest of the ingredients down here.

Recent enactments of laws in the national halls indicate that the elephant and donkey are pretty well broken to double harness, and are working together in a way that will benefit the public. Party lines have gone smash, and the country will improve.

A colony of New York social and theatrical young women are living in tents in the tobacco sections of Connecticut, the idea that the atmosphere surrounding growing tobacco is beneficial to health and very beautifying. Perhaps this accounts for the many beautiful Kentucky women.

There is no better reading than the newspaper reports as to how enthusiastic Kentuckians are this week along the route of the Lincoln Way, where business and professional men, farmers, mechanics, school teachers, women and children are lending a helping hand in the work of building a broad and permanent highway in one week. The work is already completed in some sections, and there is great rivalry between the crews as which shall do the best work. May this be only a start of such improvements in the State, where roads of such character are badly needed.

Now that president Taft has put his signature to the Canadian Reciprocity bill a brief review may be made of the political forces that have contributed to the result. In both houses of Congress 235 Democrats voted for the bill and 14 in the negative; so that the Democrats gave of their forces a net majority of 221 for reciprocity. On the other hand, the Republicans of the two houses gave 85 votes for the bill and 102 against it, leaving a net Republican majority of 17 in the negative, and revealing an almost equal division of the two factions. The figures are most significant in reflecting the tendencies of the two parties on the tariff question. In the Democratic party the reactionary element is reduced almost to a shadow. In the Republican party the reactionaries are still the dominant power.

Concerning Centres.

Thirty-one miles westward the centre of population of the United States has advanced since 1900. This is more than twice the westward shift of the centre during the years 1890-1900. If the movement should accelerate in like ratio in the current decade as it did in the last the centre would get close to the Illinois State-line by 1920. The Hoosiers most watch out if they would not lose the distinction, which has long been theirs, of living in the very midst of American people.

By the way, is it not curious that human beings should take so much account of being in the centre of somewhere? The Bostonese boast

of living and breathing in the hub of the universe was another matter; it was an expression of transcendentalism. Boston, as one of its great geniuses explained, was "a frame of mind," and to the making of this frame the intelligence of the entire cosmos contributed. It was a quintessential thought, not a mere matter of latitudes and longitudes such as the Census Office "centres" are.

The same official bulletin, which conveys the information that Unionville, Monroe county, Indiana is the present centre of population of the United States, also tells us that the geographical centre of the country is in northern Kansas. Now of what use is the knowledge that there are just as many square miles of United States territory north and south of Mankato, or just as many sterile or fertile American acres east and west of the longitude of what place? What if as many Americans live east of a line drawn north and south through Unionville as live to the westward thereof? Or that the latitude of Unionville parts an equal number of Americans, good and bad, living north and south thereof? For our part, we are more interested in the proper quartering of a huckleberry pie in which we expect to share. Who wants to be in the middle, anyhow? The centre of a revolving circle moves more slowly than the periphery. Who would give fifty years of Europe for a cycle of Cathay? The hub pivots the wheel, but the tire raises the dust.

Selecting and Caring for Seed Corn.

Every farmer who expects to plant seed corn next year of his own raising should select in the field this fall and give it the proper care during the winter. Everyone who is not growing a variety with good breeding behind it should get such a variety before another year goes by. Once a productive variety is found, seed should be selected from one's own field rather than buy seed from a distance, as the imported seed is likely to be not so well adapted to local conditions as the home-grown seed. In buying new seed, it is safest to get it from a grower of reputation of near home as possible.

Most corn growers select seed from the crib in the spring; therefore it is not possible to know anything about the conditions under which it grew. The whole plant, and not the ear, is the unit of selection. The reasonable way, then, is to go into the field when the corn is coming into maturity. The stalk should be of medium height, stocky and vigorous, bearing the ear about four feet from the ground, with a good shank that gives the ear just enough drop to protect it from the rain. Select from two or three stalks in a hill, according as you expect to grow two or three in a hill. An ear that is good with one stalk in a hill might have been poor in competition with other stalks in the hill. See that there are no nubbins or barren stalks close to the selected plants, as they are generally from weak seed, and the selected ear will have been cross fertilized by them. Mark the ears selected by tying a tag to them, and allow them to mature thoroughly. Gather as soon as mature, husk and hang up in a dry, well ventilated place where there will be no injury by mice. A very good way to hang corn is to string it up so that the ears do not touch each other, very much as boys hang up their popcorn. Select at least twice as many ears as will be needed for seed, since many will have to be discarded as not coming up to the desired type. These points cannot be determined in the field.

In the spring before planting time, make a germination test of every ear, and discard all weak ones. Select 50 of the finest and strongest ears and shell them together and plant them in a seed block in a place on the farm where they will be least exposed to your neighbor's corn. Then select the next year's seed from this block as directed for selecting in the field. Plant each year a seed block by using the best 50 ears. This procedure will improve the yield and quality of your corn.

For further information address George Roberts, Agronomist Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station.

A fresh shipment of "Big Ben" alarm clocks is going fast at Mack's watch shop.

Fresh, smoked and salted meats of all kinds at J. E. Coombs & Co's market.

Sciatica.

To one who has suffered from sciatica, any description of the pain and misery will be needless, and to one who has not had it no ordinary pen can picture it adequately.

The pain in a well-marked case is excruciating. It is felt with greatest intensity about the middle of the back part of the thigh or higher up, near the pelvis, and extends down the back of the leg a variable distance.

The underlying cause of the pain in true sciatica is an inflammation of the sciatic nerve, a large nerve-trunk passing down the middle of the thigh and dividing near the knee into two main branches which run down the leg.

The treatment, which is the subject of chief interest to the sufferer, is directed to the cure of the inflammation of the nerve and to the relief of the pain resulting from it. In the attempt to accomplish the first of these objects the cause must be ascertained, and then be removed if possible. This cause is not always the same, but is generally some systemic condition, or toxemia, as it is called, often indefinitely characterized as gout or rheumatism or the "uric-acid diathesis."

For the relief of the pain, drugs may be and often are necessary, but much can be done by physical measures. The first essential is rest to the limb, obtained by the recumbent position in bed, sometimes combined with fastening the leg in a splint. In addition to this, local applications are of great service.

In some cases cold, in the form of an elongated ice bag, gives most relief. In other cases the pain yields more quickly to hot applications, such as a poultice or mud pack, or running a hot iron over the part, covered with thin blotting paper, or the filter-paper used by druggists, moistened with vinegar and water; or the leg may rest in a box filled with hot sand.

Sometimes alternate hot and cold applications relieve when either alone fail. A good way is to apply several layers of cloth wet with ice-water and cover them with strips of blanket over which is a sheet of rubber tissue. The heat of the limb soon converts the cold application into a hot one, and the stimulation of circulation thus effected brings great relief. Gentle rubbing or stroking of the limb upward is often grateful.

In the later stages, when the pain is less acute, massage and careful exercise are serviceable. Electricity of the proper kind and scientifically applied—not that made by the noisy little domestic batteries—may be of use. But this, or any powerful measure, should be used only under the direction of the physician.

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